



Kansas



Floodplain Management Newsletter

December 2009



In this newsletter...

- KAFM Conference**
- Conference Photos**
- Looking at the Map**
- Learning Opportunities**
- Training Registration Form**
- ASFPM Annual Conference Info.**

Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2009 Annual Conference

The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management had its sixth annual conference September 2 and 3 at the Guesthouse International Inn in Emporia. Conference highlights included a presentation by Janet Sturgeon and Chance Hayes from the National Weather Service and a stream obstructions workshop by John Roth and Leonard Bristow from Division of Water Resources.

Breakout sessions were geared toward basic and advanced levels of floodplain managers. New floodplain managers attended Tom Morey's extensive floodplain 101 class. Experienced floodplain managers attended sessions dealing with floodproofing presented by Joe Remondini; smart vent flood openings by Brian Shaw; manufactured homes by Julie Grauer; grandfathering insurance by Sonja Wood; community rating system by Scott Cofoid; elevation certificates by Dean Ownby; and map mod tools by Bob Franke.

On Wednesday evening, participants were transported to the renovated historic Fox Granada Theatre in downtown Emporia, where they were guests at a catered dinner featuring live music.

Conference attendees were given plenty of opportunity to network with different agency representatives and other floodplain management professionals. The conference closed with a workshop on the community rating system and a certified floodplain manager exam.

Photos and presentations from the conference are available at the KAFM website at <http://ekafm.org/>. Information about next year's conference can also be found on the website.



KAFM conference general session and lunch.



The Fox Granada Theatre welcomes KAFM for a social event.

It's New, It's Changed . . . So Look at It!

by Andy Megrail

New maps for 39 counties have been created and are in various stages of development. Of those 39 maps, 20 are in effect. Once a map is in effect it is more difficult to correct errors or address areas of concern.

FEMA has timelines to address and correct any identified errors, but it is the responsibility of the floodplain administrator to review the maps. If there are no base flood elevation changes to be printed on the maps, then a 30-day comment period is provided. During this period, it is essential that street names, city boundaries and stream names are reviewed for accuracy. If errors are identified, they can't be fixed unless the appropriate notifications are made. The errors should be sent to the address identified on the letter included with the preliminary maps.

If there are base flood elevation changes to be annotated on the map, then FEMA allows a 90-day appeal period. During this time, it is essential to identify any engineering data available so that it can be changed to reflect the new data. Does this mean that a new study should be initiated to try to change things? No! This means that if there is an existing study that may make the maps more accurate, and it has been missed, then this is the time to correct the omission. At this time, the summary of map actions should also be reviewed to ensure that all letters of map change for the community are being evaluated.

Although it may sound like a lot of time, in most cases there is no appeal period, only a comment period, and 30 days goes fast. The Kansas Department of Agriculture has tried to help communities by providing work maps before the preliminary period. Depending on how quickly quality reviews are addressed, these can be available one to six before a preliminary date. However, this extra time is only useful if the maps are actually reviewed. There are several options available to help with the review. The contact information listed on the letter that accompanies the work maps can be used to request digital images of the panels in either a PDF or GIS format.

Regardless of the way the maps are reviewed, it is essential that they are reviewed. As many communities have learned, there are areas that could have been addressed during the work map or preliminary phase, a process that does not include a lender requiring insurance for property owners. There have also been cases where multiple letters of map revision have been done and it has resulted in the wrong revision being incorporated. This could have been avoided by looking at the maps.

As maps are received by local officials, they must review them. Communities know best what happens in their area, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture wants to help by making sure the best maps are available, but that won't happen if the maps stay folded and stuffed in a drawer. Look at your maps!

If you find a problem in flood maps you are reviewing, please contact Andy Megrail at (785) 296-2513 or by e-mail to andrew.megrail@kda.ks.gov.

Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management program will host the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If you are interested in any of these no-cost training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at (785) 296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at (785) 296-4622.

Basics of the National Flood Insurance Program

This class is for officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The focus is on NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Class size is limited to 20.

Topeka, February 17, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

KAFM to sponsor Residential Substantial Damage Estimation

FEMA Region VII has agreed to teach an RSDE class in February in Emporia. The RSDE classes were very popular when offered in October, and this provides another opportunity for anyone who missed it. FEMA has developed software to use to make substantial damage estimations, a very valuable tool for any floodplain management official to understand and use. It is required that the community FPM make substantial damage determinations after a disaster. The class is in two parts. The morning classroom session is to review terms and regulations related to substantial damage, while the afternoon is a field trip to a property to practice damage estimation. Class size is limited to 25.

Emporia, February 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alicia Benson Joins Floodplain Team

Alicia Benson joined the KDA-DWR team in November as Floodplain Coordinating Associate. She looks forward to helping with the map modernization process, scoping, visiting officials and ensuring Kansas communities have the opportunity to provide input on their unique situations through the mapping process. Please feel free to contact Alicia at (785) 296-7769 or alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov.

DWR Currents Online

The Division of Water Resources newsletter, Currents, can be read online at www.ksda.gov/appropriation/mailling_list/id/68.

KAFM 2010 Conference

Mark your calendar! The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2010 conference will be September 1 and 2 in Wichita. Contact Jon Bristor, Treasurer, 110 E 10th Street, Wellington, KS 67152, (620) 326-2207, for registration information. Additional information will be available at www.ekafm.org.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Program
Training Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Name, date and location of training you will attend _____

*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

**Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

Please mail or fax your registration to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
109 SW 9th STREET, 2nd FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1283
Fax to: (785) 296-4835

If you have questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson at
steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov, or (785) 296-4622, or Tom Morey at
tom.morey@kda.ks.gov, or (785) 296-5440.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please report the change by calling (785) 296-4622, or send an e-mail to steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov.

Funds available to attend ASFPM National Conference in Oklahoma

The Association of State Floodplain Managers 2010 national conference will be May 16-21 in Oklahoma City. This conference is an excellent opportunity for Kansas floodplain managers to receive premier training on mapping technologies, adopting new flood hazard maps, and to discuss topics directly related to floodplain management.. The conference will be attended by more than 1,300 floodplain management professionals and officials.

Scholarship funds are available to help you attend this conference. If you are interested in attending, and would benefit from financial assistance, please contact Tom Morey at tmorey@kda.ks.gov, or (785) 296-5440. Assistance awards will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. More information will be available in January..

KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

Tom Morey, CFM, RS, NFIP Coordinator(785) 296-5440.....tom.morey@kda.ks.gov
Andy Megrail, CFM, Floodplain Mapping Specialist.....(785) 296-2513.....andrew.megrail@kda.ks.gov
Steve Samuelson, CFM, NFIP Specialist.....(785) 296-4622.....steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov
Alicia Benson, Floodplain Coordinating Associate.....(785) 296-7769.....alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov

Mailing Address:

109 SW 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283
Fax: (785) 296-4835
www.ksda.gov/dwr